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ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE FIRST PART OF ITS THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Sally E. MOSS (Bahamas)

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997

Programme 31. Regional cooperation for development in Asia and the Pacific

1. At its 14th meeting, on 18 May, the Committee considered revisions to programme 31 (Regional cooperation for development in Asia and the Pacific) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 31)).

Discussion

2. A number of delegations commended the efforts to streamline the structure of programme 31 and expressed appreciation for the thematic approach and the clustering of activities under fewer subprogrammes.

Conclusions and recommendations

3. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 31 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) Wherever the terms "countries in transition" or "transitional economies" are used, they should be replaced by the words "countries that are undergoing the process of transition to a market economy".

(b) In paragraph 31.5, next to the last line, the words "the urgent need to address environmental issues and to achieve sustainable resource use patterns;" should be inserted after the word "investment;".

(c) In paragraph 31.6, next to the last line, the word "further" should be replaced by the word "additional".

(d) In paragraph 31.10, first and second lines, the words "particularly the central Asian republics of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, should be deleted.

(e) In paragraph 31.14, twelfth line, the passage beginning with "Increasing" to the end of the paragraph should be replaced by "Increasing regional interdependence has, in fact created both opportunities and structural problems that need to be addressed in a concerted manner. Reduction of imbalances in trade, adjustments to more open and competitive markets, and efforts to stimulate new patterns of growth are some of the issues that need to be addressed. Moreover several centrally planned economies in the region are making a transition to a market economy; regional cooperation can assist those countries to make the changes in a positive direction."

(f) In paragraph 31.15, the first sentence should be replaced by "At the global level, a certain trend towards protectionism, proliferation of trade alliances and raising of barriers against competitive exporters is discernible in the emerging trade environment." The sentence beginning "The Uruguay Round of multilateral trade ..." should be replaced by "The outcome of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations could have a profound effect on the trade prospects of developing countries of the region by providing both new opportunities and new responsibilities for the conduct of international trade. Uncertainty about the outcome, however, has led many countries to explore alternative arrangements for promoting their trade interests."

(g) In paragraph 31.17 the subparagraph (a) should be replaced by "To sustain the momentum of growth and development in the region while contributing to the alleviation of income disparities within the region;" the subparagraph (b) should be replaced by "To minimize problems and to take advantage of opportunities that growing economic interdependence might provide;" the subparagraph (c) should be replaced by "To manage the smooth transition of the countries that are undergoing the process of transition to a market economy in the region and facilitate their eventual integration in multilateral trade systems and in the regional division of labour;" the subparagraph (j) should be replaced by "Overcome difficulties arising out of growing protectionism and other barriers against competitive exports;".

(h) In paragraph 31.25, sixth line, the words "Economic growth" should be deleted and the sentence begun with the word "Rising ..."

(i) In paragraph 31.28, the second from the last sentence, beginning with the words "The plight of ...", should be replaced by "At the same time, the plight of the rural and urban poor, as well as the lack of access of the general population and the local industry to affordable clean energy accentuates some of the supply-side management problems in the energy sector which remain unresolved."

(j) In paragraph 31.28, last sentence, the words "as well as those relating to transfer of technology and resources" should be inserted after the words "specific problems".

(k) In paragraph 31.29, fifth line, the word "mainly" should be deleted.

(l) In paragraph 31.31, after second sentence, a new sentence should be inserted: "The activities will also include any follow-up action on decisions and measures adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development."

(m) In paragraph 31.37, third line from the bottom, the words "living and non-living" should be deleted.

(n) In paragraph 31.46, seventh line, the words "the vulnerable sections of society and" should be inserted after the words "reforms on".

(o) In paragraph 31.48, after second sentence a new sentence should be inserted: "In this regard services and support will be rendered to activities related to the Asia and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons 1993-2002 in accordance with resolution 48/3 of the Commission." In the eighth line, the words "In that connection" should be deleted, and after the words "Special attention will", the word "also" should be inserted.

(p) In paragraph 31.74, at the end of first sentence, the words "compounded by the limited capacity of some transit countries" should be inserted after the words "transport problems".

(q) In paragraph 31.75, fourth line, the word "they" should be replaced by "most of these countries".